

Remarks for White Ribbon event

December 6, 2011, 12:00

Bardzo dziękuję, Pani Prezydentowo,
za zaproszenie i gratuluję wspaniałej
inicjatywy. Chciałbym też podziękować
pani Urszuli Nowakowskiej - nieustrudzonej
dyrektorce Centrum Praw Kobiet. Dzięki
wielu staraniom obu fundacji wzrosła
świadomość społeczna problemu przemocy
wobec kobiet i pojawiły się konkretne
rozwiązania prawne i pozaprawne, które
poprawiły sytuację tysięcy kobiet.

[Thank you very much, Mrs.

Kwaśniewska, for the invitation to be here today, and congratulations on this wonderful initiative. I'd also like to recognize Mrs. Nowakowska for her tireless work with Centrum Praw Kobiet on issues related to domestic violence.

The impressive efforts of Mrs.

Kwaśniewska and Mrs. Nowakowska have not only focused public attention on the

problem of gender-based violence, but have resulted in concrete legal and non-legal advances that have improved the lives of thousands of women.]

Dlatego od razu zgodziłem się zostać ambasadorem Białej Wstążki po raz drugi - ponieważ to bardzo ważna sprawa. Jak powiedziała na konferencji ONZ [o-en-zet] Hillary Clinton w 1995 [dziewięćdziesiątym piątym] roku, gdy

była jeszcze Pierwszą Damą: „prawa kobiet to prawa człowieka, a prawa człowieka to prawa kobiet”.

[When I was asked to be an Ambassador of the White Ribbon Competition for the second year in a row I agreed immediately because of the importance of the issue at stake. As then first-lady Hillary Clinton said in 1995 at the 4th UN World Conference on Women,

“women’s rights are human rights, and human rights are women’s rights.”]

The future safety and security of our world depends on our commitment to reducing gender-based violence.

As you all know, horrific acts of violence against women take place every day in every country around the world. In fact, an estimated one in three women

worldwide will experience some type of gender-based violence during her lifetime.

These 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence - designated as the days between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Human Rights Day – provide us with the opportunity to demonstrate renewed commitment to reducing the occurrence of gender-based violence.

Secretary Clinton made this point well in her November 25 statement commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in which she emphasized that not only are prevention, protection, and prosecution essential to combating gender-based violence, but it must also be a priority.

As Secretary Clinton pointed out, “Empowering women and girls is already a

priority of the United States, but we need more countries to step up and take on this challenge.” I am pleased to be able to say that this is yet another area of partnership between Poland and the U.S.: the efforts of Mrs. Kwaśniewska and Mrs. Nowakowska – and many others in this room – make clear that Poland also treats this issue as a priority.

The US Embassy here in Warsaw places great importance on combating gender-based violence by working with and

providing financial support to organizations such as Centrum Praw Kobiet. You can read about many of these efforts on our website and Facebook page.

Of course, gender-based violence is not just a women's problem, but a problem that affects all of us: men and women, girls and boys. Last year, the U.S. State Department focused its efforts around the International Day for the Elimination of

Violence Against Women on the theme of what men and boys can do to prevent gender-based violence.

It is essential that we continue to support the inclusion of men and boys in addressing and preventing violence and changing gender attitudes. This award ceremony is an important annual reminder of the role that men and boys can play in eradicating gender-based violence.

Szanowni Państwo, z całego serca gratuluję zdobywcom wyróżnienia Białej Wstążki. Jestem pełen podziwu dla Waszej pasji, ciężkiej pracy i oddania. Bardzo dziękuję.

[Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your commitment to this important issue, and special congratulations to the winners of this year's White Ribbon Competition. I admire your passion, hard work, and dedication. Thank you very much.]